

CLAIMS:

The claims in the case are as follows:

1 (previously presented). A process for the production of acetic acid comprising carbonylating methanol and/or a reactive derivative thereof selected from the group consisting of methyl acetate, dimethyl ether and methyl iodide with carbon monoxide in at least one carbonylation reaction zone containing a liquid reaction composition comprising an iridium carbonylation catalyst, methyl iodide co-catalyst, a finite concentration of water, acetic acid, methyl acetate, at least one promoter selected from ruthenium, osmium and rhenium and at least one catalyst system stabiliser selected from indium, cadmium, mercury, gallium and zinc and wherein the molar ratio of iridium : promoter : stabiliser in the liquid reaction composition is maintained in the range 1 : (>2 to 15) : (0.25 to 12).

2 (original). A process according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of iridium : promoter : stabiliser in the liquid reaction composition is maintained in the range 1: (>2 to 10) : (1 to 12).

3 (original). A process according to claim 1 wherein the molar ratio of iridium : promoter : stabiliser in the liquid reaction composition is maintained in the range 1: (3 to 10) : (1 to 10).

4 (previously presented). A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the concentration of catalyst system stabiliser in the liquid reaction composition is less than 9000 ppm.

5 (previously presented). A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the catalyst system stabiliser is selected from the group consisting of iodides or acetates of indium, cadmium, mercury, gallium and zinc.

6 (previously presented). A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the promoter is ruthenium.

7 (previously presented). A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the concentration of promoter in the liquid reaction composition is less than 8000 ppm.

8 (previously presented). A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the concentration of water in the liquid reaction composition is in the range 0.1 to 20 wt%.

9 (previously presented). A process according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the carbonylation is carried out in two reaction zones.

10 (cancelled).

11 (previously presented). A process according to claim 3 wherein the concentration of catalyst system stabiliser in the liquid reaction composition is less than 9000 ppm.

12 (previously presented). A process according to claim 3 wherein the catalyst system stabiliser is selected from the group consisting of iodides or acetates of indium, cadmium, mercury, gallium and zinc.

13 (previously presented). A process according to claim 3 wherein the promoter is ruthenium.

14 (previously presented). A process according to claim 3 wherein the concentration of promoter in the liquid reaction composition is less than 8000 ppm.

15 (previously presented). A process according to claim 3 wherein the concentration of water in the liquid reaction composition is in the range 0.1 to 20 wt%.

16 (previously presented). A process according to claim 3 wherein the carbonylation is carried out in two reaction zones.